IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: De Keczer et al. Serial No.: 09/393,579 Art Unit: 1627 Date Filed: 09/09/99 Examiner: Celsa, B. Title: Protecting Groups for Biological Labelling Date: 03/05/04 Atty. Docket No.: BEH-7410 MARIZ ROOM

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Mailstop RCE PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Final Office Action mailed 11/04/03 for which a response is now due please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Please cancel claims 1-18, 20, 31, 34-36, 43, 45 and 47-56. Please amend claims 24-25 as shown below.

Thus, claims currently in the case are 19, 21-30, 32-33, and 37-42 and claim 44.